## **COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 53100**

# SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL COMPANY LIMITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2004

# ROSS BROOKE LIMITED

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors 21/22 Park Way Newbury Berkshire **RG14 1EE** 



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# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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## OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

The board of directors W.H. Carson OBE

Mrs S.A. Gray J.S. Wills R.S. Holt

Company secretary Mrs S.A. Gray

Registered office 21/22 Park Way

Newbury Berkshire RG14 1EE

Auditors Ross Brooke Limited

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors 21/22 Park Way Newbury

Berkshire RG14 1EE

Bankers National Westminster Bank Plc

30 Market Place Newbury RG14 5GP

Solicitors Clarke Willmott

1 Georges Square Bath Street Redcliffe Bristol Avon BS1 6BA

#### THE DIRECTORS' REPORT

#### YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2004

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31st May 2004.

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the company during the year was that of a professional football league club.

#### THE DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS IN THE SHARES OF THE COMPANY

The directors who served the company during the year together with their beneficial interests in the shares of the company were as follows:

	Ordinary Shares of £0.50 each	
	At	At
	31 May 2004	1 June 2003
W.H. Carson OBE	100.003	100,003
Mrs S.A. Gray	, =	, –
J.S. Wills		283,350
M.J. Devlin	_	Address of the Control of the Contro
R.S. Holt	_	_

On 30 September 2003 a majority holding of the company's share capital was acquired by Swindon Town F.C. Limited. The director J.S. Wills has a controlling interest in that company.

M.J. Devlin resigned as a director on 31st July 2004.

#### **DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that year.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to select suitable accounting policies, as described on pages 7 to 8, and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The directors must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **AUDITORS**

A resolution to re-appoint Ross Brooke Limited as auditors for the ensuing year will be proposed at the annual general meeting in accordance with section 385 of the Companies Act 1985.

#### SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985.

Signed by order of the directors

MRS S.A. GRAY Company Secretary

Approved by the directors on 911105

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL COMPANY LIMITED

#### YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2004

We have audited the financial statements of Swindon Town Football Company Limited for the year ended 31st May 2004 on pages 5 to 12 which have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective June 2002), under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 7 to 8.

This report is made solely to the company's shareholders, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's shareholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's shareholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Directors' Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the Directors' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

#### BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board, except that the scope of our work was limited as explained below.

An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error.

However, the evidence available to us was limited in relation to balances brought forward from the year ended 31 May 2003 and the comparatives shown in the profit and loss account for the year ended 31 May 2004. Any adjustment to the figures for the year ended 31st May 2003 would have a consequential effect on the loss for the year ended 31st May 2004.

In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

#### **FUNDAMENTAL UNCERTAINTY**

In forming our opinion we have considered the adequacy of disclosures made in note 1 of the financial statements concerning the financial position of the company and the reliance on the support of the company's majority shareholder. In view of the significance of this uncertainty we consider that it should be drawn to your attention but our opinion is not qualified in this respect.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SWINDON TOWN FOOTBALL COMPANY LIMITED (continued)

#### YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2004

#### OPINION: DISCLAIMER ON VIEW GIVEN BY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Because of the possible effect of the limitation in evidence available to us when auditing the financial statements for the year ended 31st May 2003, we are unable to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the loss for the year ended 31st May 2004 or of the comparatives shown in these financial statements.

In all other respects our opinion is the financial statements give a true & fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st May 2004, and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

In respect alone of the limitation on our work relating to the balances brought forward and comparative amounts in these accounts;

- we had not obtained all the information and explanations that we considered necessary for the purpose of our audit; and

- we were unable to determine whether proper accounting records have been maintained.

ROSS BROOKE LIMITED

Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors

Berkshire RG14 IEE

21/22 Park Way Newbury

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# PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	Note	2004 £	2003 £
TURNOVER		3,891,557	2,864,653
Cost of sales		3,631,838	3,238,703
GROSS PROFIT/(LOSS)		259,719	(374,050)
Administrative expenses Other operating income		1,787,745 (50,041)	1,490,638 (58,784)
OPERATING LOSS	2	(1,477,985)	(1,805,904)
Profit on disposal of players' registrations Exceptional item	3	110,000 878,912	96,706
Interest receivable Interest payable and similar charges		(489,073) 1,551 (115,173)	(1,709,198) — (233,028)
LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE	<b>TAXATION</b>	(602,695)	(1,942,226)
LOSS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		(602,695)	(1,942,226)

## **BALANCE SHEET**

## 31ST MAY 2004

		200	4	2003	
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	4		39,062		14,327
Tangible assets	5		764,677		1,079,757
			803,739		1,094,084
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		72,718		37,632	
Debtors	6	376,279		685,538	
Cash at bank and in hand		278,013		135,613	
		727,010		858,783	
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLIN DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	<b>G</b> 7	8,103,971		10,136,394	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			(7,376,961)	<del></del>	(9,277,611)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT L	IABILITIE	es	(6,573,222)		(8,183,527)
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLIN DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE	G				
YEAR	8		2,400,000		
			(8,973,222)		(8,183,527)
DEFERRED INCOME	11		858,926		1,045,926
			(9,832,148)		(9,229,453)
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called-up equity share capital	13		2,250,000		2,250,000
Share premium account	14		2,585,161		2,585,161
Profit and loss account	15		(14,667,309)		(14,064,614)
DEFICIENCY			(9,832,148)		(9,229,453)

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Aor 1985 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective June 2002).

These financial statements were approved by the directors on the .9\ulessigned 5..... and are signed on their behalf by:

P.S. HOLT Director

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2004

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (i) Basis of accounting and going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective June 2002).

In August 2002 the company entered into a five year Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA). To date, all amounts due under the CVA have been paid. If the CVA successfully completes in August 2007, approximately £900,000 of the company's liabilities will be written off. However, if the CVA fails at any point in time, the CVA liabilities will be due immediately in full. Therefore, these liabilities are included in full as amounts due within one year in the financial statements.

The company became a subsidiary of Swindon Town F.C. Limited during the year. The company has a Facility Agreement with Swindon Town F.C. Limited, by which the company has unlimited access to funds for working capital until 30th August 2008. Sir Seton Wills has, within the same agreement, guaranteed to a third party the obligations of Swindon Town F.C. Limited to the company and has confirmed his intention to use his best endeavours to provide financial support to Swindon Town F.C. Limited to enable it to meet its obligations to the company under the Facility Agreement.

Accordingly the directors have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not reflect any adjustments which would have to be made should this going concern basis prove invalid. The directors do not consider it possible to determine the effect of this with reasonable accuracy, but adjustments would have to be made to reduce the value of assets to their realisable amount, to provide for further liabilities which might arise, and to reclassify fixed assets and long term liabilities as current assets and liabilities.

#### (ii) Turnover

Turnover is stated net of value added tax and monies due to the Football League, Football Association and visiting football clubs. It reflects gate receipts, associated commercial activities and monies due from the Football Association, League income and other football clubs.

#### (iii) Amortisation

Amortisation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Player registrations -

over the period of initial contract

#### (iv) Fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost.

#### (v) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Ground improvements

Over 10 to 50 years straight line

Equipment

Over 3 to 10 years straight line

#### (vi) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

#### (vii) Operating lease agreements

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against profits on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2004

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### (viii) Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. The annual contributions payable are charged to the profit and loss account.

#### (ix) Transfer and signing-on fees

Transfer fees receivable are credited to the profit and loss account in the year in which the transfer is completed. Those fees that are contingent on subsequent appearances or transfers are dealt with in the profit and loss account in the year in which the relevant appearances or transfers take place. Transfer fees payable are capitalised at cost and amortised in the profit and loss account over the period of the players' contracts.

#### (x) Grants

Grants of a revenue nature are credited to income in the year to which they relate. Grants of a capital nature are credited to a deferred income account and amortised over the life of the asset to which they relate.

#### (xi) Income recognition

All income classified as turnover is recognised on an accruals basis.

#### 2. OPERATING LOSS

Operating loss is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2004	2003
	£	£
Amortisation	25,265	47,493
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	315,080	252,885
Auditors' fees	10,000	18,000
Auditors' fees for other services	11,920	19,765
	<del></del>	

### 3. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

	2004 £	2003 £
Loans payable waived	878,912	

During the year loan balances and corresponding interest payable totalling £878,912 were waived. These are recognised in full as a credit in the loss for the year ended 31 May 2004.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4.	INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
				Goodwill £
	COST At 1st June 2003 Additions			62,500 50,000
	At 31st May 2004			112,500
	AMORTISATION At 1st June 2003 Charge for the year			48,173 25,265
	At 31st May 2004			73,438
	NET BOOK VALUE At 31st May 2004			39,062
	At 31st May 2003			14,327
5.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			
-		Land and buildings £	Other plant & machinery etc.	Total £
	COST At 1st June 2003 Disposals	3,474,981 (109,442)	1,090,263 (89,706)	4,565,244 (199,148)
	At 31st May 2004	3,365,539	1,000,557	4,366,096
	DEPRECIATION At 1st June 2003 Charge for the year On disposals At 31st May 2004	2,594,637 217,494 (109,442) 2,702,689	890,850 97,586 (89,706) 898,730	3,485,487 315,080 (199,148) 3,601,419
	NET BOOK VALUE		1 100 000	,
	At 31st May 2004	662,850	101,827	764,677
	At 31st May 2003	880,344	199,413	1,079,757
6.	DEBTORS			
		2004 £		2003 £
	Trade debtors Other debtors	74,874 301,405		398,864 286,674
		376,279		685,538

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2004

#### 7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2004	2003
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	30,115	32,111
Trade creditors	1,915,202	1,864,329
Taxation and social security	1,971,818	1,423,567
Other creditors	4,186,836	6,816,387
	8,103,971	10,136,394
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Included in the above total of £8,103,971 are liabilities of £5,383,334 which are part of the Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) as described in note 1(i). Under the terms of the CVA £100,000 of this is payable within one year. Should the CVA fail, the whole amount becomes due immediately.

The following liabilities disclosed under creditors falling due within one year are secured by the company:

	2004	2003
	£	£
Other creditors	2,000,000	2,000,000

#### 8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2004	2003
	£	£
Other loans	2,400,000	_

The following liabilities disclosed under creditors falling due after more than one year are secured by the company:

	2004	2003
	£	£
Other loans	2,400,000	_

#### 9. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Football League operates a Players' Benefit Scheme. This is funded as part of a levy imposed by the League on transfer fees. Additionally, contributions are paid by the company into personal pension plans for certain employees. There is no pension commitment outstanding at the year end.

#### 10. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The lease relating to the County Ground expires on 31 March 2013. The terms are that the rent payable shall be base rent plus an additional rent of 2% of the company's gross turnover for its previous financial year. The minimum base rent payable is £85,380 per annum, with increases in future years based on movements in the Retail Price Index.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	YEAR ENI	DED 31ST MA	AY 2004		
11.	DEFERRED INCOME				
			2004		2003
			£		£
	Falling due within one year: Grants receivable		50,042		50.041
	Season ticket sales		350,570		50,041 332,160
	Marketing income		-		82,507
	Sponsorship income		<u> </u>		77,060
	Other income		11,500		7,302
			412,112		549,070
	Falling due after one year:				
	Grants receivable		446,814		496,856
12.	RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS				
	At the balance sheet date the company had the fo	ollowing loan balan	ces due to related r	parties:	
	. ,	Ü	2004		2003
	Delegad companies		£		£
	Related companies Directors and connected parties		3,140,714 2,593,534		2,773,551
	Significant shareholders		-		889,927
	•		5,734,248		3,663,478
12	Loans from directors and connected parties were to directors and connected parties during the yea				53141160 440
13.	SHARE CAPITAL				
	Authorised share capital:				
			2004		2003
			£		£
	4,500,000 Ordinary shares of £0.50 each		2,250,000		2,250,000
	Allotted, called up and fully paid:				
		2004 No	↓ £	2003 No	£
	Ordinary shares of £0.50 each	4,500,000	2,250,000	4,500,000	2,250,000
14	CHARE DREMIUM ACCOUNT				
14.	SHARE PREMIUM ACCOUNT				
	There was no movement on the share premium a	eccount during the f	inancial year.		
15.	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT				
			2004 £		2003 £
	Balance brought forward		(14,064,614)		(12,122,388)
	Accumulated loss for the financial year		(602,695)		(1,942,226)
	Balance carried forward		(14,667,309)		(14,064,614)
	Balance carried forward		(14,667,309)		(14,064,614)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2004

#### 16. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

The accounts for the year ended 31st May 2003 incorrectly included loans payable of £5,928,286 in 'Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year'. These loans were either included in the Company Voluntary Arrangement (see note 1(i)) or were repayable on demand, so should have been included in 'Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year'. The comparatives have been adjusted to reflect this correction, which has no effect on the loss for either period.

#### 17. CONTROL

Until 30th September 2003 no shareholder had a controlling interest in the company. At that date the company became a subsidiary of Swindon Town F.C. Limited who acquired a majority shareholding thus becoming the ultimate parent company. That company is controlled by J.S. Wills, who is therefore the ultimate controlling party.

# MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

## YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2004

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements which are the subject of the independent auditors' report on pages  $3\ to\ 4$ 

# DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

TEAR ENDED SIST MAT 2004					
	2004	2003		£	
	£	£	£	£	
TURNOVER		3,891,557		2,864,653	
COST OF SALES					
Opening stock	37,632		25,000		
Staff costs	2,708,109		2,736,242		
Other direct costs Amortisation of player costs	933,550 25,265		467,600 47,493		
7 mioresaction of play of costs			_ <del></del>		
Clasin a start	3,704,556		3,276,335		
Closing stock	(72,718)		(37,632)		
		3,631,838		3,238,703	
GROSS PROFIT/(LOSS)		259,719		(374,050)	
OVERHEADS					
Rent, rates and water	151,771		113,144		
Light and heat	39,493		50,347		
Insurance	18,208		5,713		
Ground maintenance	128,709 44,195		100,743 54,999		
Motor expenses Travel and subsistence	169,035		120,435		
Vehicle leasing charges	43,200		24,421		
Telephone	32,325		39,685		
Computer costs	23,267		6,253		
Postage, telephone and stationery	51,122		35,783		
Training and recruitment	6,313		17,591		
Staff welfare	40,056		87,691		
Medical expenses	36,891		30,000		
Sundry expenses	2,247 3,289		3,869		
Subscriptions and donations Fines and penalties	J,267 —		20,000		
Advertising and public relations	24,377		5,070		
Entertaining	1,188		_		
Management charges payable	· –		123,000		
Legal and professional fees	356,846		149,584		
Auditors remuneration	21,920		37,765		
Depreciation	315,080		252,885		
Bad debts written off	31,591		169,000		
Operating lease: Property Operating lease: Equipment	169,000 44,514		35,261		
Bank charges	33,108		7,399		
J		1,787,745		1,490,638	
		(1,528,026)		(1,864,688)	
OTHER OPERATING INCOME		(1,526,020)		(1,004,000)	
OTHER OPERATING INCOME Release of deferred income grants		50,041		58,784	
OPERATING LOSS		(1,477,985)		(1,805,904)	
Profit on disposal of players' registrations		110,000		96,706	
Exceptional item - loans waived		878,912		70,700	
Exceptional fem round variou				(1.500.100)	
B 111		(489,073)		(1,709,198)	
Bank interest receivable		1,551			
		(487,522)		(1,709,198)	
Interest payable		(115,173)		(233,028)	
		<del></del>			
Carried forward		(602,695)		(1,942,226)	

# DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	2004 £	2003 £
Brought forward	(602,695)	(1,942,226)
LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	(602,695)	(1,942,226)

# NOTES TO THE DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	2004 £	2003 £
INTEREST RECEIVABLE		
Bank interest receivable	1,551	
INTEREST PAYABLE	<del></del>	
Bank interest payable	473	10,295
Interest on other loans	114,700	222,733
	115,173	233,028